



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 8, 2008

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

JAN 08 2008

Dear Supervisors:

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS
IN THE MATTER OF A WELLS FARGO BANK ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED
MURDER OF SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JIM MULAY
(ALL DISTRICTS)
(3-VOTE)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in total amount of \$10,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to the individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the conviction of Charles Washington, the person responsible for the August 28, 2006 armed robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank located on Pacific Coast Highway in the City of Malibu and the attempted murder of Sheriff's Deputy Jim Mulay.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On August 29, 2006, your Board offered a \$10,000 reward on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky relating to an armed robbery which occurred at a Wells Fargo Bank located at 23361 Pacific Coast Highway, in Malibu and the subsequent attempted murder of Sheriff's Deputy Jim Mulay. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money expired on January 26, 2007. Prior to the January 26, 2007 claim filing period, the Executive Office of the Board received a claim from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on behalf of an individual who wishes to remain anonymous (Claimant), for the \$10,000 reward. In accordance with provisions of the County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance relating to rewards, your Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

A panel made up of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board met and reviewed the claim filed for the reward funds. The panel is recommending that the reward funds in total amount of \$10,000 be awarded to the Claimant for the provision of information which led to the conviction of the suspect Charles Washington.

The chronological events in this case are as follows:

- On August 28, 2006, at approximately 11:13 a.m., an armed robbery occurred at a Wells Fargo Bank located at 23361 Pacific Coast Highway.
- The suspect fled the scene in a Honda Accord with Sheriff Department patrol units in pursuit. During the pursuit, the suspect rammed into Motorcycle Patrol Deputy James Mulay at a high rate of speed causing the Deputy to him to collide into a parked truck. Deputy Mulay was gravely injured in the collision and will be seriously disabled for the remainder of his life.
- On August 29, 2006, the Board, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, approved the establishment of a \$10,000 reward to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement in the investigation of the case.
- During the morning of August 29, 2006, the Claimant contacted the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station with information related to the crime. Detective Duncan subsequently met with the Claimant who then provided the Detective with detailed information about the person who helped the suspect escape from a very heavy police dragnet.
- Armed with the information provided by the Claimant; the person who helped the suspect escape; and with the assistance of the El Segundo Police Department, the Sheriff's Department was able to positively identify the suspect who was then arrested on the evening of August 29, 2006. After his arrest the suspect confessed to the bank robbery, as well as several other robberies. The suspect also admitted to crashing into Deputy Mulay, but refused to admit that he intentionally rammed into the Deputy.
- On January 25, 2007, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department filed a claim with the Executive Office of the Board on behalf of the Claimant for the \$10,000 reward.

- In July 2007, on the first day of the jury trial, the suspect pled guilty to Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Police Officer (causing great bodily injury). Testimony by the claimant was not necessary, due to the suspect pleading guilty. However, the claimant was and did remain on the District Attorney's witness list and would have testified had the trial continued.
- On November 16, 2007, the suspect was sentenced to a term of 25 years-to-life, incurring two additional strikes to his record (for a total of four) and will not be eligible for parole until he is about 80-years-old.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement, which could lead to the arrest and/or conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life to residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$2,000 from each member's account.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code establishing procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

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The Notice of Reward Offered was posted on the Board of Supervisors' web site. In addition, copies were provided to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County services.

Respectfully submitted,


SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller